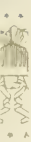


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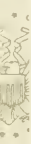
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Inscriptions On The Grave Stones
IN THE OLD
"NEW ENGLAND TOWN"
' BURYING GROUND
FAIRTON,
FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP,
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

WITH AN
HISTORICAL SKETCH
A
LIST OF THE SIGNERS
OF THE
COHANSEY COMPACT 1697
AND THE NAMES OF SOME OF THE
EARLY SETTLERS OF FAIRFIELD

COMPILED BY

FRANK D. ANDREWS
SECRETARY VINELAND HISTORICAL AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
Member of the CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VINELAND N. J.

1909

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Gift
Wineland Hist. &
Anti. Soc
J. 2. 1910

P R E F A C E .

About one mile from the village of Fairton, in the township of Fairfield, within a short distance of the highway, near the entrance to a grove of stately trees, is the site of the first Presbyterian Church erected in West Jersey. ✓

Within the enclosure, among old oaks and cedars, are the graves of some of the early inhabitants of this region and their immediate descendants. The grave stones are mostly of marble, time stained and gray, but with inscriptions legible. They are clustered near the site of the ancient church, where lies the dust of two former pastors who died in service, or scattered through the grove; with here and there a rough native stone marking the last resting place of some unknown parishioner.

In this sequestered spot, with no additions to their number for more than one hundred years; these memorials of the life of the eighteenth century, have been well nigh forgotten by the generations who have travelled along the highway, or have sailed upon the river, between which this hallowed ground has so long lain hidden by natures covering of bush and tree.

The recurring anniversaries of the founding and settlement of our country, has created a very laudable desire to learn more regarding the worthy men and women who laid the foundations of the religious and civic freedom we now enjoy.

It is but natural our thoughts turn toward those who peopled this part of the county, who they were, and from whence they came. Few, however, of the first to settle within the present boundaries of the county were buried in this early grave yard. Following the custom of the time they were laid at rest in some favored spot about their habitations, where in unmarked and long forgotten graves, their dust has mingled with the earth they once trod, and we may not find them.

Some of their descendants, and settlers of a later date, found at last lodgement about the church in which they had worshipped, and congregations of the dead slept without the walls.

Such records as these old church yards disclose are worthy of preservation for those interested in the past, who, by their assistance may learn of some distant ancestor, or add a link to the chain which will unite them with the early settlers and founders of the first church of Fairfield.

FRANK D. ANDREWS.

VINELAND, N. J.

DECEMBER, 1909.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Among the early New England settlers of West Jersey, were a number of the inhabitants of Fairfield, in Connecticut Colony, who located on the south side of Cohansey River, a dozen miles or more from its entrance into Delaware Bay. The exact date of their arrival is unknown, but with characteristic regard for their religious duty organized a church about 1690. Rev. Thomas Bridge, a graduate of Harvard, became their spiritual adviser and teacher; remaining with them until about 1703, when he returned to Boston, where he was pastor of the First Church, from 1705 until his death, September 26, 1715.

May 12, 1697, the New Jersey Assembly duly authorized "the former inhabitants of Fairfield in New England," to name the township after their home town in Connecticut.

Families from other parts of New England, Long Island and East Jersey joined the settlers, or found new homes in the vicinity, and the fertile land about the Cohansey River was early taken up and improved.

That the settlers on the Cohansey were of good repute, we are assured by Rev. Jedediah Andrews, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, who called them "the best people in his neighborhood." He prevailed upon his Harvard classmate, Rev. Joseph Smith, to become their pastor in 1709. Mr. Smith was soon succeeded by Samuel Exall. Howell Powell followed him and remained until his death in 1717. Henry Hook

served from 1718 to 1722. Rev. Noyes Parris, another graduate of Harvard College, preached from 1724 to 1728 or 1729, when Rev. Daniel Elmer, a graduate of Yale College in 1713, began his ministry, which ended only with his death in 1755. Rev. William Ramsey, a graduate of the College of New Jersey, served until he died in 1771. Rev. William Hollingshead was the next pastor, preaching from 1773 to 1783, when he removed to Charleston, S. C.

The first meeting house was of logs, it was replaced by a building of New England pattern, with shingled roof ends and sides. During the ministry of Mr. Hollingshead this was deemed unsafe, and the pulpit and benches were removed to a wide spreading oak near by, where services were held in pleasant weather, until the completion of the stone church, which still stands about one mile south.

Burials were made in the yard at the new church, and the old burying ground being little used, was neglected, and trees grew among the graves.

During the present year, the Presbyterian Synod of New Jersey, erected a granite memorial commemorating the founding of the early church, and perpetuating the memory of the men, who in 1697, bound themselves to "obtain and mainetaine a Sound & Orthodox Ministr of the Gospell to preach the Gospell amongst uss," and they further agreed, "That a school for the teaching of Children to read & write English shall be mainetained from time to time."

They agreed to set aside a certain number of acres for the minister who should settle among them, and a like amount for a parsonage. The agreement then made is now known as the "Cohansey Compact," and the names of twenty-six signers are cut upon the monument. In

the body of the agreement the names of John Fairchild and Zachariah Ferris appear among the others, and their names should be preserved with the early settlers of Fairfield.

The monument erected at the entrance of the old burying ground bears the following inscription:

"IN MEMORY of the true and good men and women who coming in the seventeenth century founded here on the Cohansey, THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN FAIRFIELD. It came under the care of the Presbytery of West Jersey, May 19, 1708.

This monument is erected by their descendants and the Presbytery of West Jersey, June 15, 1909.

REV. THOMAS BRIDGE WAS THEIR MINISTER."

"Signers of Agreement in Fairfield, June 10, 1697."

Thomas Jones	John Chatfield
Jonathan Morehouse	John Mills
Joseph Seelye	Thomas Bennett
Joseph Sayre	Joseph Smith
Robert Dallglesh	Thomas Kernes
Joseph Wheeler	Joshua Curtis
Daniel Wescott	John Griffin
Joseph Grimes	Nicholas Johnson
John Roberts	Michael Hanna
Eleazer Smith	John Ogden
John Bennett	Samuel Foster
Samuel Bellnap	Edward Lummis
John Bateman	John Smith

In addition to the names upon the monument, a partial list of the heads of families who early settled within the limits of Fairfield township, or immediate vicinity, is here given. Not all were Presbyterians however; some were Friends, others Baptists, and worshipped elsewhere. A few among the number removed to other settlements after a few years residence.

Thomas Abbot, died 1718.

Thomas and Mary Alderman. Thomas died in 1715.

Francis, James, and Samuel Alexander.

Ebenezer and Mary Allen. Ebenezer died in 1716.

Robert and Hester Ayars. Removed to Shiloh.

Charles Bagley.

Samuel Barns. Patience Barns, widow, died in 1716.

Jeremiah Bennett.

Leonard Berriman.

Nathaniel and Sarah Bishop. He died April 24, 1723.

John Bishop.

Isaac & John Brooks. Josiah Brooks, died about 1732.

Henry and Rachel Buck. He died February 1725-6.

Henry Buck, Jun., wife Ruth. He died March 1725-6.

William Button.

William and Patience Clarke. He died about 1702.

Captain William Dare. William Dare, Jun.

Benjamin Davis. Removed, and settled in Deerfield.

Thomas Diamant.

Anthony Dixon. Died about 1728.

Robert Douglas.

Joseph and Ann Eastland. Joseph died in 1728.

Capt. Ezekiel Eldridge, and wife Sarah. He died 1710.

Thomas Fairbanks.

John, and Jonathan Fithian. John died about 1702.

Samuel and Priscilla Fithian. Samuel died in 1702.

Samuel Jun., & Josiah Fithian, removed to Greenwich.

James Fullerton, Merchant. Died about 1729.

Thomas Furbush. He died 1701 or 1702.

Garret Garrison.

Jacob Garrison, wife Christiana. He died 1708 or 1709.

John Garrison.

Edmund Gilman, wife Hannah. He died in 1715.

John Gilman, Sen., died 1695.

Rachel Gilman, widow of John, died 1695 or 1696.

John Green and his wife Ursula. He died in 1696.

Stephen Halford.

Richard Hancock. He died in 1689.

Thomas Harris.

Robert Hood.

William Johnson and wife Frances. He died in 1694.

Hezekiah Lare.

Nathan Lorrance.

Thomas Maskell. Removed to Greenwich, died in ¹⁷³²1782.

William and Mary Mulford. William died in 1719.

Joseph and Joyce Newcomb. He died 1732, or 1733.

Jeremiah Nixon. He died about 1727.

John Nixon.

Jonathan Ogden.

Richard and Elizabeth Ogden. Richard died in 1726.

Samuel Ogden. Removed to Deerfield.

Nicholas Osborn.

James Padgett.

Thomas Parvin.

William Paulin.

James Peirce. He died in 1694.

William and Ruth Pope. He died in 1715.

Howell and Elizabeth Powell. He died in 1716.

Levi Preston.

Mark Reeve, wife Ann. He died in 1694.

Joseph Riley.

David Sayre.

Ebenezer Sayre. Died 1725 or 1726.

Elisha Sayre. Died 1726, probably unmarried.

Ephraim Sayre, wife Sarah. He died in 1715-6.

Joseph Sayre, wife Priscilla. He died in 1710.

Joseph Sayre, wife Margaret. He died 1715 or 1716.

Benjamin Seely.

Ephraim Seelye, wife Mary. He died 1722-3.

Edmund Shaw, Sen., wife Rachel. He kept the first inn in Fairfield, as early as 1698. He died in 1719.

John Shaw.

William Shattock. Removed to East Jersey.

David Shepherd, wife Eve. He died 1695, she in 1710.

Dickeson Shepherd.

Enoch Shepherd, wife Elizabeth. He died in 1717.

James Shepherd. He died in 1690.

James and Eve Shepherd. He died in 1713.

John Shepherd. Died in 1710.

John Shephard. He died in 1715-6, unmarried.

Joseph and Ann Shepherd. He died in 1728.

Mary Shepherd. She died in 1713-14.

Jonathan Smith.

Solomon Smith. Removed to Burlington.

Thomas and Ann Smith. He died in 1692. She married Thomas Yard, who left her a widow in 1695.

Benjamin and Mary Stratton. He died in 1716.

Philip and Haannah Vickary. He died in 1703.

Joseph Wheeler.

Richard and Elizabeth Whitacar. He died about 1709.

Richard and Abigail Whitacar. He died in 1718-9

William Worth. Removed to Shrewsbury.

Other names from early Fairfield documents are:— Abigail, Rebecca and Peter Bateman; Mary Bowen; Edward Burrows; Richard Butcher; Hugh Chard; John Clarke; William Cousens; David Foster; Joseph Hodge; James Hudson; Samuel Hunter; John Jones; Stephen Leek; Restore Lippencott; Richard Mathis; James Moir; John Peirpoint; Israel and William Petty; Joseph Rogers; James Robbenson; Roger Ryderwood; James Silver; Alexander Smith; Thomas Vaughn; William Waithman and Samuel Wescott.

The settlement of the New England people in Fairfield was early called "New England Town," and "New England Cross Roads," names now seldom heard.

The writer, a native of the state from which so many of the early inhabitants of Fairfield came, is interested in preserving the record of the New England settlement along the Cohansey, as well as other parts of Cumberland County, believing them to be of some historical and genealogical value.

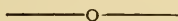
Having visited the old cemetery in the woods when its neglect was apparent, it was a pleasant change to find the grounds cleared, so that amid the stately trees the old gravestones could be seen, and the inscriptions copied for this publication.

By comparison with a list printed in the "Bridgeton Chronicle," in 1875, and reprinted in the "Elmer Times," the present year, six stones bearing inscriptions were not found, they have, however, been included in the following alphabetical list.

These old stones, telling the simple story, that they whom they commemorate once lived and died, are now, with the growing interest in the past, likely to be cared for and preserved.

INSCRIPTIONS

On the Grave Stones,
In the old "New England Town" Burying Ground,
Fairton,
Fairfield Township, Cumberland County,
New Jersey.
Copied August 18, 1909.



Memorial of MR JAMES BOYD who died
Dec 23d 1775 Aged 40 Years

MARY BOYD Widow of James Boyd who died
September 19th A. D. 1812 In the 80th year of her
age Love to God and good will to man
shone conspicuous in her character

JAMES BOYD of Philadelphia Merchant
Died May 14 1795 Aged 28 Years Be ye all-
ways ready Death comes When we expect him not

In Memory of JUDITH wife of Ephraim Buck
who died March 9 1769 Aged 33 years

Here lyes interred the remains of SARAH wife
of JAMES BURCH who departed this Life Novr 2
1787 Aged 22 Years Also her infant son The-
ophilus who died Jany 11 1788 Aged 2 Months & 11
days depart Bles'd shades to Heaven

Here lies the Body of JOHN CLARK who De-
parted this Life in the 26th Year of his Age
April the 1st 1789

In Memory of MARIAH Daughter of Charles
& Rachel Clun who Died October 20 1778
Aged 1 Year

ABIGAIL DATEN died October 20 1774 in
the 2d Year of her Age

In memory of an Infant Daughter of David & Ann
Daten who died April 3d 1760

In Memory of ELI DATEN who died May 9
1775 Aged 23 Years

In Memory MR JOSEPH DAYTEN who de
parted this Life the 28th of November Anno
Domini 1770 Aged 56 Years

In Memory of PRUDENCE DATON deceased
who died July 21 1779 In 50th Year of her Age

In Memory of LOIS DIAMENT Sen. who depart-
ed this Life April 21st 1770 in the 67th Year
of her age

In Memory of NATHANIEL DIAMENT Sen.
who departed this Life April 4 1767 In the
72 Year of his Age

In Memory of ABIGAIL ELMER relict of
Daniel Elmer Esqr dec d who expired with a
lingering Consumption July 2d 1770 Aged 54
Years Ab hoc discite hominem

In Memory of
the Rev. Mr DANIEL ELMER
late Pastor of *CHRIST'S* Church
in this Place
who departed this Life
the 14th Day of January
A D 1775
Aged 65 Years

In Memory of DANIEL ELMER Esqr
who departed this Life May 2d 1761 in the
46 Year of his age

In Memory of DANIEL ELMER Esqr who
departed this Life June 30 1775 in the 33d Year
of his Age

August the 1st 1783 the Honourable THE-
OPHILUS ELMER ESQ Took leave of time
Aged 54 Years

In Memory of Theodotia the wife of Theophli
Elmer who took exit on the 18 Day of Feb
uary Anno Dom: 1765 In the 34 Year of her
Age

Virtue and Piety Merit Honour and Esteem In
Remembrance of Which this Monument is Seen
In Memory of MRS ELMER in Youth the Belovd
Spouse of Mr J. L. — And now the Changeing
scenes of life are past Safety is found in Christ at last
by an easy Exit On the 10 Day of August 1775
in the 48 Year of her Age And in this Local spot
Intered only at the request of her Respected of spring
Be ye Therefore followers of them who through
faith And Patience Inherit the Promise

(On reverse.)

No more shall Anxious care Molest
My soft repose and quiet Rest
In peaceful Silent Slumber lye
Till Jesus rends the Ethereal Sky
Then quit the Dust arise and shine
Adorn'd with features all Divine

In Memory of Mrs HANNAH ELMER Wid-
ow of Theophilus Elmer Esqr who died Septem-
ber the 27th 1783 Aged 53 Years

In Memory of TIMOTHY ELMER ESQ
Who Exchanged Time for Eternity May 16 1780
Aged 32 Years

In Memory of WILLIAM RAMSEY ELMER
Son of the Hon b J. Elmer & Mary his wife who
died Nov 6th 1784 Aged 4 Years & 7 months
by his side lie 4 more of their children who
all died in early infancy

In Memory of David Fithian who departed
this Life February 23d 1754 In the 45th
Year of his age

In Memory of HANNAH HARRIS who
departed this Life Nov r 14th 1784 Aged 64
Years and 8 months

In Memory of ISAAC HARRIS who died
Oct 17 75 (Stone broken, inscription partly gone.)

In Memory of JEREMIAH HARRIS who
departed this Life Febry the 22d 1755 in ye
35 Year of his Age

In Memory of Mrs SUSANNA HARRIS
late the beloved Wife of Capt Thomas Harris
who departed this Life April 2 1774 In the 62
Year of her Age

In Memory of SUSANNA HARRIS who
departed this Life Nov r ye 14th 1784 Aged 64
Years & 8 Momths

T H died February 15th 1759 Aged 5 Years

Here Lyes the Body of THOMAS HARRIS Jun
who Departed this Life Feb 6th 1759 Aged 29
Years

In memory of Capt Thomas Harris
who departed this life April 27th 1783 Aged
72 Years & 5 Mo

V. H. died Feb ry 25 1759 Aged 3 Years

In Memory of JONATHAN LORANC who
departed this Life February 19th 1774 In the
41 year of his Age

W M died August 30 1769 Aged 9 Months

W M died August 27 1770 Aged near 2
Years

In Memory of William Meek who departed
this Life December 23 1773 Aged 48 Years

In Memory of ABIGAL NIXON the Wife
of REUBEN NIXON who departed this Life
December the 25 1770 in the 21st Year of her Age

In Memory of Reuben Nixon who departed
this Life October 29 1773 Aged 27 Years

In Memory of JEREMIAH NIXON who
departed this Life August the 2d 1766 Aged
50 Years & 6 Mo

In Memory of JONATHAN ORANGE
who departed this Life February 19th 1764
In the 41st Year of his Age

Here lieth the Body of ABDON OGDEN
who departed this Life March 3d 1773
Aged 23

In Memory of DAVID OGDEN ESQ
who departed this Life December 1st 1760
Aged 53 Years

In Memory of HANNAH the wife of
David Ogden who departed this Life April 29th
1742 In the 36th Year of her age

In Memory of JOHN OGDEN ESQ who
departed this Life December 22 1745 In the
75 Year of his Age

In Memory of JOHN OGDEN JUN ESQ
who departed this Life May 10 1759 Aged
52 Years

In Memory of JOSEPH OGDEN ESQ who
died July 21 1772 Aged 48 years

In Memory of SARAH the wife of Thomas
Ogden: who departed this Life March 23 1760
Aged 38 Years

In Memory of THOMAS OGDEN Junr
who died January 10 1768 Aged 25
Years

In Memory of VIOLETTA wife of THOMAS
OGDEN who departed this Life November 9
1760 Aged 24 Years

In Memory of ZEPHANIAH OGDEN who
departed this Life March 24 — Aged 52 Years

In memory of ZEPHANIAH OGDEN who
departed this Life March 20th 1771 In the
30th Year of his Age

In Memory of RUTH wife of Capt DAVID
PAGE who departed this Life March the 30th
1777 in the 29 year of her age

In Memory of Benjamin Parvin who Depr'd
this Life March ye 28 1755 Aged 31 years

Here Lieth the Body of THOMAS PARVIN
who Departed this Life August ye 28th 1743
Aged 80 Years 1 month & 3 days

In Memory of Israel Petty Junr who died
Oct 11 1763 In the 34 Year of his Age

In memory of DAVID POWELL who died
April 24 1772 In his 38th Year

In Memory of RICHARD POWELL who
departed this Life September 9th 1764
Aged near 36 Years

Richard Powell Died Sept 9 1764 Aged near
36 Years For Family Record see County
Clerks Office Book 1 Misl Records Page 357
(On a large stone near the original grave stone.)

In Memory of Levi Prestou who Died Jan ry
17th 1752 Aged 91 Years

Ephraim son of the Revd Wm Ramsey &
SARAH his Wife died Jan y 28 1765 Aged
9 Months

Beneath this Stone lies interred
the Remains of
the Rev'd WILLIAM RAMSEY, M. A.
For sixteen years a faithful Pastor of the
Presbyterian Church of this Place
Whose superior Genius and native Eloquence
Shone so conspicuously in the Pulpit
As to command the attention and
Gain the esteem of all his Hearers
In every station of Life he discharged
His duty faithfully
He lived greatly respected
And died universally lamented
November 5th 1771 in the 39th year
Of his Age

In Memory of DAVID SAYRE ESQ who
departed this Life April 11th Anno Domini 1767
And in the 47th Year of his age

In Memory of EPHRAIM SEELEY Esquire
who departed this Life June the 22d 1774
Aged 62 Years

Here was deposited the Body
of

SARAH SMITH

Successively the Wife
of the Revd William Ramsey
of this Place
& the Revd Dr Robt Smith
of Pequia
She was highly distinguished
for the exercise of the
Estimable and amiable qualities
in various relations of
wife mother friend and Christian
Having survived her last
worthy husband a few years
In great weakness of body
she fell asleep in Jesus
August 9th 1801 aged 63 years

In Memory of ROHADA the wife of
Henry Sparks who died December 28th 1760
Aged 25 Years

Here lieth the Body of Preston Stratten
who departed this Life November 18th 1759
Aged 18 Years

In memory of BENJAMIN STRATTON
who departed this Life July 20 1750 (or 1751)
In the 50 Year of his age

In Memory of Benjamin son of Benjamin
and Sarah Stratton who departed this Life
Oct 2d 1750 Aged 17 Years

In memory of THOMAS WALLING
who departed this Life May 10th 1765 Aged
29 Years

In Memory of ELIZABETH WIFE of
JOSEPH WESCOT who departed this Life
October 14 1770 Aged 57 Years

In Memory of Ezekiel Wescote who Died
March 20th 1763 in ye 19th Year of his Age

In Memory of Rachel Wescote who departed
this Life May the 3d 1751 Aged 38 Years

In Memory of DAVID WESTCOTE who
departed this Life July 16 1778 In the 37th
Year of his Age





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